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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/738,240	12/15/2000	Krishna Kishore Yellepeddy	AUS9-2000-0694-US1	2745

7590 03/28/2005

Law Office of Joseph R Burwell
P O Box 28022
Austin, TX 78755-8022

EXAMINER	
SHIFERAW, ELENI A	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2136	

DATE MAILED: 03/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/738,240	YELLEPEDDY ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Eleni A Shiferaw	2136	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *15 December 2000*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-54* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-54* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Final rejection

Response to Amendment

1. The examiner accepts the amended specification and abstract.

2. The examiner accepts the amended claim 40 to correct typographical errors.

3. Applicant's arguments/amendments with respect to claims 1, 9, 17, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, and 50 filed on December 15, 2000 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-6, 8-14, 16-22, and 24-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over French et al. (French Pub. No.: US 2001/0001877 A1) in view of Schell et al. (Schell, Patent No.: US 6,751, 735 B1).

As per claims 1, 9, and 17, French teaches an apparatus/a computer program product on a computer usable medium/method for managing a digital certificate on a distributed computing system, the apparatus comprising:

at least one reception software module that receives a request from a user and generates a reception event corresponding to that request (French Page 4 par. 0066, Fig. 45 No. 130;

application server receives user requests (110), Fig. 45 No. 120 authentication server receives user request from user (110) or application server (130));

at least one processing software module, communicatively coupled to the at least one reception software module and responsive to a propagated event, that performs an action regarding the management of the digital certificate (French Page 9 par. 0156, and Fig. 45; authentication server (120) coupled to application server (130) and responsive to propagated event);

any one of the processing software modules replaceable with another software module responsive to the same propagated event but performing another action regarding the management of the digital certificate (French Page 4 par. 0066; client 110 and authentication server 120 can communicate for requested data directly without passing through application server 130); and

the software modules executing independently from one another (French Fig. 45; application software module (130) is vendor's server, user (110), and authentication server (120) are all running separately).

French fails to explicitly teach:

a combination of processing software modules perform functionality representing a registration authority and/or a certificate authority; and

each of the processing software modules are adaptively configurable to perform specifiable functionality in the management of the digital certificate.

However Schell discloses:

a combination of processing software modules perform functionality representing a registration authority and/or a certificate authority (Schell Fig. 5 No. 152a-f, and col. 19 lines 29-67); and

each of the processing software modules are adaptively configurable to perform specifiable functionality in the management of the digital certificate (Schell Fig. 5 No. 152a-f, Fig. 4, and col. 19 lines 29-67).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to employ the teachings of Schell within the system of French because it would allow to manage digital signature by communicating cascadly/sequentially to perform actions related to digital certificate. Independent and communicatively coupled certificate authority modules perform actions like generating private/public key pairs for digital certificate by root certifier authority 152a, certifying digital signature by CMC signature root 152b, and verifying the certificate by Module signature authority 152d and Server CA (Schell Col. 19 lines 30-67 and Fig. 5).

As per claims 25, 30, and 35, French teaches an apparatus/a computer program product on a computer usable medium/method for managing a digital certificate on a distributed computing system, the apparatus comprising:

a plurality of reception software modules that receive a request from a user and generate a reception event corresponding to that request (French Page 9 par. 0156, and Fig. 45;

authentication server (120) coupled to application server (130) and responsive to propagated event);

at least one processing software module, communicatively coupled to the at least one reception software module and responsive to a propagated event, that performs an action regarding the management of the digital certificate (French Page 4 par. 0066; client 110 and authentication server 120 can communicate for requested data directly without passing through application server 130);

any one of the plurality of reception software modules replaceable with another reception software module responsive to a request in a differing format, and propagating the same event as that by the replaced reception software module (French Page 4 par. 0066; client 110 and authentication server 120 can communicate for requested data directly without passing through application server 130); and

the software modules executing independently from one another (French Fig. 45; application software module (130) is vendor's server, user (110), and authentication server (120) are all running separately).

French fails to explicitly teach:

a combination of processing software modules perform functionality representing a registration authority and/or a certificate authority; and

wherein any of the reception software modules are adaptively configurable to perform specifiable functionality in the management of the digital certificate.

However Schell discloses:

a combination of processing software modules perform functionality representing a registration authority and/or a certificate authority (Schell Fig. 5 No. 152a-f, and col. 19 lines 29-67); and

wherein any of the reception software modules are adaptively configurable to perform specifiable functionality in the management of the digital certificate (Schell Fig. 5 No. 152a-f, Fig. 4, and col. 19 lines 29-67).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to employ the teachings of Schell within the system of French because it would allow to manage digital signature by communicating cascadly/sequentially to perform actions related to digital certificate. Independent and communicatively coupled certificate authority modules perform actions like generating private/public key pairs for digital certificate by root certifier authority 152a, certifying digital signature by CMC signature root 152b, and verifying the certificate by Module signature authority 152d and Server CA (Schell Col. 19 lines 30-67 and Fig. 5).

As per claims 40, 45, and 50, French teaches an apparatus/a computer program product on a computer usable medium/method for managing a digital certificate on a distributed computing system, the apparatus comprising:

at least one reception software module that receives a request from a user and generates a reception event corresponding to that request (French Page 4 par. 0066, Fig. 45 No. 130;

application server receives user requests (110), Fig. 45 No. 120 authentication server receives user request from user (110) or application server (130));

at least one processing software module, communicatively coupled to the at least one reception software module and responsive to a propagated event, that performs an action regarding the management of the digital certificate (French Page 9 par. 0156, and Fig. 45; authentication server (120) coupled to application server (130) and responsive to propagated event);

at least one transmission software module, communicatively coupled to the at least one processing software module, that transmits information regarding the digital certificate on the distributed computing system in a first format in response to a propagated event (French Fig. 45; authentication server (120) transmits information to application server (130) and coupled to application server (120), application server (130) is also a processor and transmits digital certificates to users);

the at least one transmission software module replaceable with another reception software module responsive to the same event that the replaced transmission software module is responsive to, and transmitting information in a second format (French Page 4 par. 0066; client 110 and authentication server 120 and communicate for requested data directly without passing through application server 130); and

the software modules executing independently from one another (French Fig. 45; application software module (130) is vendor's server, user (110), and authentication server (120) are all running separately).

French fails to explicitly teach:

such that a combination of processing software modules perform functionality representing a registration authority and/or a certificate authority; and

wherein any of the transmission software modules are adaptively configurable to perform specifiable functionality in the management of the digital certificate.

However Schell discloses:

a combination of processing software modules perform functionality representing a registration authority and/or a certificate authority (Schell Fig. 5 No. 152a-f, and col. 19 lines 29-67); and

wherein any of the transmission software modules are adaptively configurable to perform specifiable functionality in the management of the digital certificate (Schell Fig. 5 No. 152a-f, Fig. 4, and col. 19 lines 29-67).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to employ the teachings of Schell within the system of French because it would allow to manage digital signature by communicating cascadly/sequentially to perform actions related to digital certificate. Independent and communicatively coupled certificate authority modules perform actions like generating private/public key pairs for digital certificate by root certifier authority 152a, certifying digital signature by CMC signature root 152b, and verifying the certificate by Module signature authority 152d and Server CA (Schell Col. 19 lines 30-67 and Fig. 5).

As per clams 2, 10, 18, 26, 31, 36, 41, 46, and 51, both French and Schell teach all the subject matter as described above. In addition, French teaches the apparatus/a computer program product on a computer usable medium/method, wherein the reception software module is implemented in a computing system independent manner (French Fig. 45; the user 110, authentication server 120, and vendor server 130 are implemented independent manner).

As per clams 3, 11, 19, 27, 32, 37, 42, 47, and 52, both French and Schell teach all the subject matter as described above. In addition, French teaches the apparatus/a computer program product on a computer usable medium/method wherein the reception software module is implemented in Java (French Page 3 par. 0062, and page 4 par. 0071).

As per clams 4, 12, and 20, both French and Schell teach all the subject matter as described above. In addition, French teaches the apparatus/a computer program product on a computer usable medium/method wherein one of the at least one processing software modules is a sink bean (French Page 11 par. 0180).

As per clams 5, 13, 21, 28, 33, 38, 43, 48, and 53, both French and Schell teach all the subject matter as described above. In addition, French teaches the apparatus/a computer program product on a computer usable medium/method wherein the sink bean is a certificate generation bean (French Page 11 par. 0173).

As per clams 6, 14, 22, 29, 34, 39, 44, 49, and 54, both French and Schell teach all the subject matter as described above. In addition, French teaches the apparatus/a computer program product on a computer usable medium/method wherein one of the at least one processing software modules publishes information regarding the management of the certificate (French Page 11 par. 0180).

As per clams 8, 16, and 24 both French and Schell teach all the subject matter as described above. In addition, French teaches the apparatus/a computer program product on a computer usable medium/method wherein two of the software modules operate on different computing devices (French Page 1 par. 0019, and Fig. 45; authentication server 120 and application server 130, and user 110).

6. Claims 7, 15, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over French et al. (French Pub. No.: US 2001/0001877 A1) in view of Schell et al. (Schell, Patent No.: US 6,751, 735 B1), and further in view of Smith et al. (Smith, Patent No.: US 6,651,166 B1).

As per clams 7, 15, and 23, both French and Schell teach all the subject matter as described above..French and Schell fail to teach LDAP directory.

However Smith teaches the apparatus/a computer program product on a computer usable medium/method wherein the one of the at least one software modules publishes information in an LDAP directory.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to employ the teachings of Smith within the combination system of French and Schell because it would allow an Entrust certificate management system (Smith Col. 5 lines 28-34).

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eleni A Shiferaw whose telephone number is 571-272-3867. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz R Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Eleni Shiferaw
Art Unit 2136
March 22, 2005

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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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